

much longer compared with the size of the body and comparatively slenderer.

The kittens of the greater number of variegated feline animals are spotted or striped like the adult; but the very young kittens of the hunting leopard (*Gueparda guttata*) and of the jaguar (*Leopardus onca*) are brown and not spotted; and the young pumas, while their mothers are of a uniform dark brown colour, are pale whitish brown, with large, dark, roundish, regularly disposed blotches, the blotches being more distinct in the younger specimens and gradually becoming more indistinct as the animal grows.

Dr. Baird describes a pair of kittens from Fort Steilacoom which he thought "probably belonged to this species" (Mam. North America, p. 84), which well agree with the young we have in the British Museum, born at the Zoological Gardens, and figured by Mr. Bartlett (P. Z. S. 1861, pl. 22) from a drawing by Wolff. The adult lion is of a uniform colour; but the young kitten of a Barbary lion in the British Museum, which was littered in the Zoological Gardens in 1853, is of a nearly uniform whity brown colour, but has some very indistinct darker spots on the outside of its hind legs and tail.

The tails of the kittens of several cats, as the lion and the common domestic cat, appear to be shorter compared with the body than in the adult, which is probably universal in all the species of cats.

A Scarlet Ear Shell, probably Artificial.

By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

Many years ago I purchased of Mr. George Sowerby, the elder, a very beautiful specimen that he had purchased of a Frenchman, who informed him that it had been described and figured as a new genus of shells, I forget by whom; and I have never been able to discover where it was published, if it ever was. It has the appearance of a very irregular, corrugated, suborbicular, ear shell, with an irregular outer lip. It is of a bright scarlet colour, and is without the usual series of holes over the gills of the animal, in this respect resembling *Stomatia*. The shell is of a uniform appearance and colour, and has no external opaque or internal pearly coat, which is found in the ear shells and their allies, and, having been accidentally broken across the fracture, shows a uniform texture very different from an ear shell.

After examination I determined (and I believe Mr. Sowerby agreed with me) that it was a model of a shell carved out of the expanded part at the base of a red coral.

I have given the specimen to the British Museum collection; for if it is a model, it is very interesting and curious, being executed with great elaboration and attention to the minute details by a person who must have had a very intimate knowledge of the formation and growth of shells: though the outer surface is so irregularly formed, the irregularities are just such as would occur in a shell which has such an irregular outline to the outer lip, and the

spiral grooves on the outer surface follow these irregularities just as they would in a natural shell which had been distorted in its growth.

This is not only the case with the external surface, but the inner surface of the cavity is equally accurate, polished, and marked with spiral grooves which exactly agree with the spiral ridges on the outer surface, which are interrupted by the irregularities of the malformed corrugated shell, but placed just as they would be in an ear shell with such an irregular surface. The external spiral apex is well exhibited; and the cavity within the spire most accurately represents the cavity that would be found in an ear shell of that shape.

Some conchologists to whom I have shown the specimen think it is a real shell. I think it doubtful; but they may be right: time only will show.

Descriptions of two new Species of Fishes from the Bermuda Islands.
By G. BROWN GOODE.

In a collection of fishes, including some seventy species, made at the Bermudas in the spring of 1872 I find two forms apparently undescribed, descriptions of which are given below. As the marine life of the Bermuda group is essentially West-Indian in its character, these species may be regarded as additions to the ichthyological fauna of the West Indies.

1. *Diapterus Lefroyi*, sp. n.

This species belongs to the genus *Gerres* as defined by Dr. Günther. It is distinguished from all other members of the genus and family by its relatively greatly elongated form. The body is fusiform, compressed, its greatest height, at the thoracic region, being a little less than one fourth ($\cdot 23$) of the total length, and a little more than one fourth ($\cdot 27$) of the length without caudal ($\cdot 89$): in *Diapterus aprion*, the most elongated of the species hitherto described, the greatest height is one third of the length. The height of the body is uniform under the spinous portion of the dorsal, sloping gently and at a nearly uniform angle above and below to the middle of the caudal peduncle; the height of the body behind the dorsal ($\cdot 10$) is less than one half, the least height of the tail ($\cdot 06$) is one fourth of the greatest height of the body.

The scales are large, measuring $\cdot 03$ and $\cdot 04$ in height, and $\cdot 02$ and $\cdot 03$ in length; they form about forty-five oblique transverse rows between the head and the caudal, four and a half longitudinal rows between the back and the lateral line, and ten between the lateral line and the belly.

The length of the head ($\cdot 22$) equals the greatest height of the body, and is double the greatest width of the head ($\cdot 11$); the height at the pupil ($\cdot 14$) is double the width of the interorbital space ($\cdot 07$). The length of the snout ($\cdot 06$) equals the length of the operculum ($\cdot 06$); when the mouth is protruded the length of the snout is